

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1070
ANSWERED ON 13/02/2025

STATUS OF PENDING CASES IN JUDICIARY

1070. SHRI C. Ve. SHANMUGAM:
SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:
DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of pending cases in the Civil Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court over the last three years, including Tamil Nadu, as on date, and the details of the categories and nature of these cases; and
- (b) the steps Government is taking to reduce the pendency of cases in the Civil Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court including setting up of more courts functioning throughout the year and the manner in which these measures have been effective in the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a): The number of pending cases in the District and Subordinate Courts, High Courts and Supreme Court over the last three years, including Tamil Nadu, as on date, is as under:

S. No	Name of court	No. of pending cases			
		*31.12.2022	*31.12.2023	*31.12.2024	**As on 07.02.2025
1.	Supreme Court of India	78,797	80,674	82,496	81,573
2.	High Courts	53,92,031	54,42,547	55,40,682	62,35,242
3.	District and Subordinate Courts	4,32,93,727	4,39,70,061	4,54,54,003	4,57,42,040

*Source: Supreme Court of India. **National Judicial data grid (NJDG)

The details of the categories and nature of these cases are not being maintained centrally.

(b): In case of Supreme Court of India, Article 130 of the Constitution of India provides that the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint. The Eleventh

Law Commission in its 125th Report titled “The Supreme Court – A Fresh Look”, submitted in 1988, reiterated the recommendations made by Tenth Law Commission in its 95th Report for splitting the Supreme Court into two namely (i) Constitutional Court at Delhi and (ii) Court of Appeal or Federal Court sitting in North, South, East, West and Central India. The Eighteenth Law Commission in its 229th Report had also suggested that a Constitutional Bench be set up at Delhi and four Cassation Benches be set up in the Northern region at Delhi, Southern region at Chennai/Hyderabad, Eastern region at Kolkata and Western region at Mumbai. The matter was referred to the Chief Justice of India, who informed that after consideration of the matter, the Full Court in its meeting held on 18th February, 2010, found no justification for setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. In Writ Petition WP(C) No. 36/2016 on establishment of National Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 13.07.2016 deemed it proper to refer the aforementioned issue to the Constitutional Bench for authoritative pronouncement. **The matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court.**

In case of High Court, Benches are established in accordance with the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission and judgment pronounced by the Apex Court in W.P.(C) No.379 of 2000 and after due consideration of a complete proposal from the State Government which has to provide necessary expenditure and infrastructural facilities and the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court who is required to look after the day today administration of the High Court. To be complete, the proposal should also have the consent of the Governor of the concerned State. At present, there is no complete proposal pending with the Government for setting up of Bench(es) in any High Court.

In case of District and Subordinate courts, the setting up of more courts is within the domain of the State/UT Governments and their respective High Courts.

The disposal of pending cases in time bound manner is within the exclusive domain of the judiciary. However, the Government is committed towards facilitating an ecosystem for expeditious disposal of cases by judiciary and reducing pendency as mandated under Article 21 of the Constitution. To this end, the Government set up the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in 2011, with the twin objectives of increasing access by reducing delays and arrears in the system and enhancing accountability through structural changes and by setting performance standards and capacities. The Mission has been pursuing a co-ordinated approach for phased liquidation of arrears and pendency in judicial administration, which, inter-alia, involves improved infrastructure for courts including

computerization, increase in strength of subordinate judiciary, policy and legislative measures in the areas prone to excessive litigation, re-engineering of court procedure for quick disposal of cases and emphasis on human resource development.
